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Derrick Brown

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27. (New) An apparatus for interconnecting a plurality of modules, the apparatus comprising:

a shift register having a plurality of slots connected in series, each one of the plurality of slots coupled to one of the plurality of modules.

28. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 27 wherein each of the plurality of slots is configured to store a frame, and to transmit the frame to another one of the plurality of slots.

29. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 27 wherein each one of the plurality of slots is coupled to an input from one of the plurality of modules.

30. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the input comprises optical interconnect.

31. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 27 wherein each one of the plurality of slots is coupled to an output to one of the plurality of modules.

32. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 31 wherein the output comprises optical interconnect.

33. (New) A computer system comprising:

a plurality of modules; and

a shift register having a plurality of slots connected in series, each one of the plurality of slots coupled to one of the plurality of modules.

34. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 33 wherein at least one of the plurality of modules comprises a bridge module coupled to communicate with other bridge modules separate from the plurality of modules.

35. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 34 wherein the bridge modules communicate via a ring.

36. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 35 wherein the ring comprises a second shift register have a second plurality of slots connected in series, each of the second plurality of slots coupled to one of the bridge modules.

37. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 33 wherein at least one of the plurality of modules comprises a memory module.

38. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 33 wherein at least one of the plurality of modules comprises a central processing unit (CPU) module.

39. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 33 wherein at least one of the plurality of modules comprises an input/output (I/O) module.

40. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 33 wherein each of the plurality of slots is configured to store a frame, and to transmit the frame to another one of the plurality of slots.

41. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 33 wherein each one of the plurality of slots is coupled to an input from one of the plurality of modules.

42. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 41 wherein the input comprises optical interconnect.

43. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 33 wherein each one of the plurality of slots is coupled to an output to one of the plurality of modules.

44. (New) The computer system as recited in claim 43 wherein the output comprises optical interconnect.

45. (New) A method comprising:

shifting a plurality of frames in a plurality of slots of a shift register, the plurality of frames comprising communication among a plurality of modules, each of the plurality of slots coupled to one of the plurality of modules; and

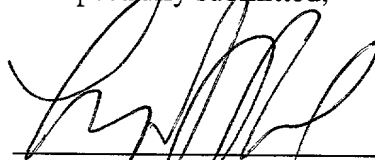
each of the plurality of slots transmitting a first frame of the plurality of frames stored therein to the one of the plurality of modules to which that slot is coupled.

46. (New) The method as recited in claim 45 wherein the transmitting comprises optically transmitting.

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 27-46 are pending. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Conley, Rose, & Tayon, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-05005/LJM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence J. Merkel

Reg. No. 41,191

AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

Conley, Rose & Tayon, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 476-1400

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